did not make purchases,

— Proper classification of tobacco is necessary. It is desirable for the smooth conduct of auctions and is beneficial for the farmers in getting better prices. If the bundle is of uniform quality, it will fetch a higher price in the auction bidding.

— The interest of the Andhra Pra desh Tobacco Growers Coopera tive Union in getting export or- dere to Russia has been convey- ed to the Russian authorities.

— Tobacco Board has been directed to fix the targets well in advance every, year.

— The Tobacco Board Act provides for representation of 6 growers in the Tobacco Board.

— Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is the competent authority for fixing Minimum Prices. CACP fixes MSP for two basic grades of tobacco in consultation with Tobacco Board. Tofcaeco Board Act provides for purchase of Tobacco by the Board when the auction prices go below the Minimum Support Prices. In the current auctions in Andhra Pradesh, the tobacco prices are much above the MSP and hence, the Board is not required to intervene 5n in the auctions

Pre-shipment inspections: by Export Inspection Council

1931. SHRI S. K. T. RAMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number *of* pre-ehsipment inspect ns made by the Expert Inspect in Council during the year 1991-92;

(b) the number of commodities seized by the clear during the said period; and

(c) the number of cases regstered and initiated for adjudication prc-ceeourgs against defaulting manuia-e'treis and exporters, and how many certificates of Inspection, issued by the hsection agercies, were cancet and during the *yea* 1991-92?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OP COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) give Export Inspection Agences (EIAs) have been set uP under the administrative and technical *control* of the Export Inspection Council (FIC) for quality control and pre-shipment inspection of commodities notified By the Government, under the Export (Quality Contrji and Inspection) Act, 1S63. During 1991-92 the EIAs carried out 90,813 inspections under the Consignment Wise Injection System and issued 31,319 inspection certificates under the In-process Quality Control (IPQC) Sys-'em.

(b) The Export Inspection Council did not seize any commodity during the year 1991-92.

(c) Adjudication proceedings wera initiated by the EIC during 1991-92 against one merchant-exporter and one manufacturer-exporter under Section 10 K of the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963 as amended in 1984.

Two certificates of inspection issued by EIA-Calcutta were cancelled during this period under Section 7 (3A) of this Act.

Non-upgradation of posts of jo*int* Chief Controllers of export and import

1932. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2818 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Joint Chief Controllers have not been upgraded so far;